

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-08 FAA-00
DOTE-00 IO-13 NRC-05 OES-07 ERDA-05 FEA-01 COME-00
/125 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6574
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 19720

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, EGEN, ETRN, FR, MX
SUBJECT: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN MEXICAN-FRENCH RELATIONS

REF: STATE 270898

1. AFTER THE VISIT OF FRENCH FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER, ANDRE ROSSI, TO MEXICO NOV 14-17, EMBOFF CALLED ON FRENCH EMBASSY HERE FOR A TOUR D'HORIZON OF MEXICAN-FRENCH RELATIONS ONE YEAR AFTER THE INSTALLATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO.

2. THE MINISTER-COUNSELOR OF THE FRENCH EMBASSY ANDRE LE GUEN CONFIRMED THAT AN OFFICIAL INVITATION HAS BEEN ISSUED BY PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO AND ACCEPTED BY PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING TO VISIT MEXICO IN 1978. THE VISIT WOULD NOT OCCUR BEFORE APRIL BECAUSE OF THE FRENCH ELECTIONS AND LE GUEN ASSUMES IT WILL BE IN THE LATTER PART OF
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1978.

3. LE GUEN DESCRIBED POLITICAL BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS AS EXCELLENT. HE SAID THAT THE ONLY THORNY ISSUE BETWEEN MEXICO AND FRANCE IS FRANCE'S UNWILLINGNESS TO SIGN PROTOCOL I OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO. HOWEVER, LE GUEN CONFIRMED THAT FRENCH INTERNATIONAL LEGAL

EXPERTS ARE LOOKING AT THE TREATY AGAIN TO SEE IF ANY WAY CAN BE FOUND AROUND THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN THE GOF SIGNING PROTOCOL I. (REFTEL).

4. ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES, LE GUEN SAID THAT MEXICO AND FRANCE HAVE THE SAME DIFFERENCES AS IN THE PAST BUT THAT MEXICO IS LESS "AGGRESSIVE" IN MULTILATERAL FORUMS THAN UNDER THE ECHEVERRIA ADMINISTRATION.

5. ROSSI'S VISIT CONCERNED ITSELF MAINLY WITH ECONOMIC RELATIONS--TRADE, INVESTMENT, TECHNICAL COOPERATION, PETROLEUM, AND OF COURSE, THE CONCORDE. THE PRESS ANNOUNCED, AND LE GUEN CONFIRMED, THAT FRANCE IS INTERESTED IN BRINGING THE CONCORDE INTO MEXICO CITY VIA WASHINGTON. LE GUEN ADDED THAT FRANCE HAS "USED UP ALL ITS CREDITS" WITH THE USG IN THE BATTLE TO GET THE CONCORDE INTO WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK. THEREFORE, THEY ARE HOPING THAT THE GOM WILL FIGHT THE BATTLE FOR THEM WITH THE USG TO GET APPROVAL FOR A PARIS-WASHINGTON-MEXICO CITY ROUTE. ROSSI ALSO MET WITH OFFICIALS FROM PEMEX (THE MEXICAN NATIONAL PETROLEUM COMPANY) AND WAS QUOTED BY THE PRESS AS SAYING THAT FRANCE WOULD LIKE TO BE THE "POINT OF PENETRATION" INTO EUROPE FOR MEXICAN OIL.

6. LE GUEN ALSO CONFIRMED THAT FRANCE IS ACTIVELY PURSUING ITS BID FOR A SHARE OF THE PLANNED EXPANSION OF THE FRENCH CONFIDENTIAL

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DESIGNED MEXICO CITY SUBWAY. THE PROJECT IS ESTIMATED TO COST \$900 MILLION (US), AND ACCORDING TO LE GUEN, FRANCE IS BIDDING TO SUPPLY SPECIAL PARTS AND SERVICES WHICH COULD TOTAL \$200-250 MILLION.

7. FINALLY THE ROSSI VISIT SERVED THE INSTITUTIONAL PURPOSE OF REVIVING THE FRENCH-MEXICAN ECONOMIC MIXED COMMISSION THAT WAS ESTABLISHED DURING THE VISIT OF THE LATE PRESIDENT DE GAULLE TO MEXICO IN 1964, BUT WHICH NEVER MET. THE COMMISSION'S FIRST MEETING WILL BE HELD IN PARIS IN JANUARY. LUCEY

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